

Green View Autumn 2017

Marsh, Fairfield, Westfield,
Quay, Abraham Heights

News and Views from the Green Party in Marsh Ward: No 73

FLORA Path Funding Success

Following a £30,000 grant from the Lancashire Environment Fund, the Fairfield Association has now raised enough money to build a new path through the newer part of the reserve (FLORA). The path will link Aldcliffe Road with the footpath to the Millennium Orchard.



Calling walkers, cyclists and runners

Have you walked, run or cycled up Aldcliffe Hall Drive (road leading up from the canal) for the last twenty years or more? Aldcliffe-with-Stodday parish council is gathering evidence to establish this quarter of a mile of private road as a public right of way. Contact Mollie.Foxall@gmail.com (07570946583).

Art at the Triangle

The first art exhibition is to take place at the Aldcliffe Road Triangle from Sat 2nd to Sun 3rd Sept (10-4). The exhibitors are Cromwell Road artists Gill Aitken and Phil Ferguson Jones. Much of the work is inspired by the canal and the FAUNA nature reserve—indeed, 20% of the sales go to the Fairfield Association.

The Triangle was formerly used as a paving stone depot and boat-builder's yard. It has been regenerated by a local community group since 2012—see aldcliffertriangle.org.uk

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

A Scotforth resident wants to create a network of electric vehicle charging points in Lancaster in order to help make electric vehicles a viable alternative to petrol and diesel.

The County Council is planning to install 6 charge points at on-street sites in Lancaster and the City Council hopes to install two in car parks during this financial year. But as more charging points are clearly needed, Dan Heery is setting up a co-operative to raise funds to install overnight charging points. He is currently looking for community sites in Lancaster that would allow charging points on their land. To get involved contact danielheery@outlook.com.

Long Marsh Lane Flooding

Long Marsh Lane suffered surface water flooding after the deluge of rain in mid July. Residents say that this is because gullies have not been cleared. Similar issues have been reported on Abraham Heights. Councillors are pushing the County Council to take action.

Fracking too Close for Comfort

County Cllr Gina Dowding took part in a peaceful protest at the Preston New Road fracking site in July and 'locked-on' to a barrier to demonstrate the strength of feeling of opposition to the shale gas industry setting up in Lancashire. After lying for 15 hours on the ground, Gina was arrested along with 12 other people Gina said:



Gina and colleagues at the Preston New Road site

"I have never been arrested before but I am outraged that the Government is intent on turning Lancashire into a gas field despite the original planning application at New Road being turned down. What is happening a few miles down the road today will soon happen in north Lancashire too. Much of this area has been licensed for fracking and the industry will need to drill hundreds of gas wells to be financially viable."

Greens want 400 Local Jobs

In July, Green councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox led on a motion which sought to commit Lancaster City Council to source more of its goods and services from locally-based businesses. Preston City Council has been doing this since 2013. Even more importantly, Preston has encouraged 12 other public sector organisations to do the same. They claim that this has led to over £10m of procurement spend by the anchor institutions being re-directed to local businesses, equivalent to creating 400 jobs. Tim said

“Despite the original motion being watered down by Labour councillors, an officer report on increasing local procurement should come before councillors by January 2018.”

Could you support another family?

Home Start is an organisation that supports families with at least one child under 5 years old. They are looking for local volunteers who would help for up to 3 hours a week in providing a range of support for a family in need. Training is provided, which usually runs one morning a week for 6 weeks. Contact Michelle McMeeking on 01524 414871.

County Election Results

May's election results for the County Council's Central Division (Marsh, Castle, Scotforth,



Glasson & Cockerham) were:

Gina Dowding (Green)	2206
Mark Cutter (Lab)	1121
Kieran Cooke (Con)	858
Robert Watson (UKIP)	75

Gina said *“Thank you to all those who supported me. I’ll continue to work hard for all residents in Central Division.”* Seats on the County Council are now Con 46, Lab 30, Lib Dem 4, Ind 3, UKIP 1, Green 1.

County Leader in Trouble

Conservative councillors elected Geoff Driver as County Council leader, despite his arrest a few days before on suspicion of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

This relates to an investigation into financial irregularities in a contract that was set up when he previously led the County Council, before 2013.

Milking Stile Phone Box

After complaints from residents, Cllr Jon Barry has asked BT to remove the phone box at the end of Milking Stile Lane. The phone hadn't worked for a long time and was filthy. BT has started a 90 day consultation for the removal of the kiosk with the City Council. Following this, the box could be removed in early 2018.

B & Q leaving

The B&Q store on Aldcliffe Road looks set to be replaced by an Aldi shop in early 2019, after Aldi bought the freehold of the site. Cllr Dave Brookes said: *"I share residents' concern about the traffic impact of a food store—though it will be difficult to oppose in planning terms."*

Cars on Cycle Path

The County Council's new plans are to put a lockable gate at the St George's Quay end of the cycle path to prevent cars accessing the path. They say that this will happen in the 2017/18 financial year (*I'm not counting my chickens, ed*).

Fairfield Association Friend

You can contribute financially by becoming a Friend of the Fairfield Association. See fairfieldassociation.org/support

Long Marsh Lane Bollards

County Council officials think they have come up with a solution to rat-

running up Long Marsh Lane. They intend to introduce bollards near to the railway bridge plus a turning circle. This solution was the most popular in a consultation of residents carried out last Autumn by Green councillors.

Green Gym

Work on the green gym on Coronation Field is set to start in August. Nine pieces of equipment are to be introduced in a line behind the play area.

Marsh Community Centre

The Adult College will run English (starting Wed 13th Sept, 10-12.30) and maths (Thur 14th Sept, 12.30-3.00) lessons at the Marsh Community Centre. Contact the community centre on 843300 if interested.

Dallas Road Resurfacing

Work on Dallas Road is taking place during August. Cllr Jon Barry said: *"I was very pleased that the City Council's tree officer was clear that the trees needed to remain and that care should be taken of them whilst the work is in progress."*

How to contact us

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